

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Member
Only

No. 555

Washington, D. C.

June 15, 1935

House Committee Agrees on A. A. A. Amendment Report

The House Committee on Agriculture has agreed upon its report on the bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act. During the week of June 10th the Committee considered the modified proposals which were presented to it by the Administration and which were analyzed in the National Canners Association's bulletin sent to all canners on June 8th.

The Association will issue a circular to the industry outlining the provisions of the bill as reported by the House Agricultural Committee.

Extension of the N. R. A.

The Senate on June 13th concurred in the House amendment to the Clark resolution (S. J. 113) extending until April 1, 1936, the provisions of Title I of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and added a further amendment. The resolution then went back to the House. The text of the resolution as amended and passed by the Senate and approved by the House on June 14 is as follows:

That section 2 (c) of Title I of the National Industrial Recovery Act is amended by striking out "at the expiration of two years after the date of enactment of this Act" and inserting in lieu thereof "on April 1, 1936."

Sec. 2. All the provisions of Title I of such Act delegating power to the President to approve or prescribe codes of fair competition and providing for the enforcement of such codes are hereby repealed; Provided, that the exemption provided in section 5 of such title shall extend only to agreement and action thereunder (1) putting into effect the requirements of section 7 (a), including minimum wages, maximum hours, and prohibition of child labor; and (2) prohibiting unfair competitive practices which offend against existing law or which constitute unfair methods of competition under the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended.

Section 5 of the Act, referred to in the resolution, relates to exemption from provisions of the antitrust laws. The effect of the resolution is to limit the application of the exemption to the subjects enumerated in the resolution.

N.R.A. Program and Government Contracts

Legislation to carry out that part of the President's N.R.A. program as announced at the press conference on June 5th, to require Government contractors, subcontractors, and material men to conform to schedules of hours and minimum wages and to the prohibition of child labor, has not yet been introduced in Congress.

Meantime, it is understood that bids which have been opened but upon which no action has been taken are being studied and those of an emergency character being allotted. Bids received after the Supreme Court's decision have been sent back unopened, and the dates on other schedules for submission of bids have been advanced to July 1st or later.

The Director of Procurement at the Treasury Department, it is reported, has sent a letter under date of June 7th to the "heads of all departments and establishments" recommending that all invitations for bids include the following stipulation:

"Bids are requested on the basis that if subsequent legislation shall require observance of minimum wages and/or maximum hours of employment and/or limitation as to age of employees, in the performance of Government contracts, any contract entered into shall be subject to modification to accord with such statutory requirements to the extent authorized by law."

The letter from the Director of Procurement also states:

"It is further suggested that awards may be made on pending proposals if the bidder will agree to the inclusion in the contract of the stipulation above quoted in lieu of the code compliance requirements; and if the bidder does not agree new proposals should be issued which include the above stipulation."

The general policy as recommended in the letter is as follows:

"Defer action on all contracts, except contracts for services, supplies, construction, or projects which are essential to the current conduct of business until Congress can declare its intention as to Federal contract requirements concerning hours, wages, and other conditions of performance."

Canners' Associations Favor Code Wage Continuance

The Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association at a meeting on June 8 unanimously adopted a resolution approving the maintainance of the canning code wage scale. The Michigan Canners Association at its meeting on June 7 voted its wish and desire to continue the code wage scale during the forthcoming seasonal pack. The Illinois Canners Association on June 11 unanimously approved a resolution to continue to observe the canning code wages and hours under which they operated last year.

The Indiana Canners Association has adopted a resolution recommending to all Indiana canners that they continue to conform to the minimum wage provisions in the canning industry code. Ohio pea canners have expressed their intention to continue payment of canning code wages.

Crop Conditions

The following crop condition information is based on telegraphic reports from canners and indicates the condition of the crop on Thursday night, June 14th. These crop condition reports are supplemented by a table which gives the average temperatures and total rainfall for the past two weeks and for the corresponding week last year. The accompanying graphs show effective growing temperatures in Maryland, New York, and Wisconsin for the first three weeks of June, 1934, and up to June 14, 1935.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Pea pack in Delaware and Eastern Shore Maryland about half finished. Quality has been unusually high. Owing to recent high temperatures peas are now beginning to harden. Yields in lower Delaware about ton per acre. Yield in cases only about 75 per cent of first expectations.

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AND NORTHERN MARYLAND: Pea crop progressing fairly well. Temperature during last few days too high for best development. Packing will probably start first of next week.

OHIO: Pea packing is in full swing in Ohio. Crop is turning out considerably under last week's expectations. All sections of state experiencing unusually serious aphid infestation, which is threatening sweets particularly. Prospects for yield of sweets not particularly favorable.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS: Illinois peas are progressing slowly due to cool weather. Crop prospects about normal except for some late peas where stands are light due to wet, cold weather. Packing in the central part of the state will begin about June 17.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures during the first four or five days of the last week were too low for best growing conditions. This holding back of the crop tends to increase the danger of damage due to hot weather when peas are ready for canning.

MINNESOTA: Light frosts were reported in some spots in Minnesota but pea crop developing fairly satisfactorily with prospects about normal.

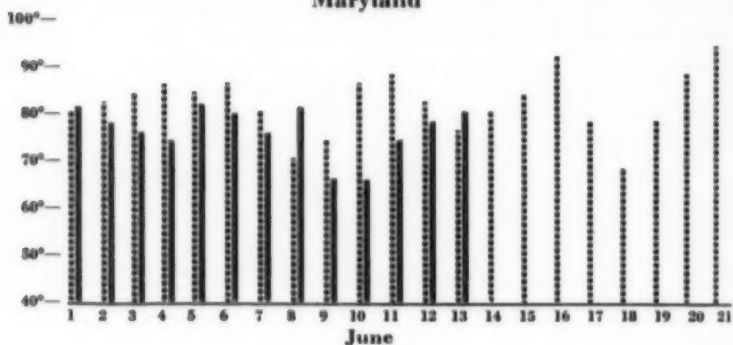
District	Week ended June 4, 1935		Week ended June 11, 1935		Week ended June 12, 1934	
	Temp.	Rain	Temp.	Rain	Temp.	Rain
Maine	61	.1	58	3.4	62	1.0
Western New York	64	.6	62	.8	68	1.0
Tri-States	73	.4	69	3.0	72	.2
South Central Ohio	69	.9	61	.4	75	.8
Central Indiana	67	.7	61	.8	75	1.2
Central Illinois	66	.5	61	.6	74	.9
Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin....	62	1.6	58	.2	68	.9
Southern Minnesota	62	.6	56	.4	68	1.5
Northern Colorado	56	.1	63	.0	69	.0
Northern Utah	56	1.7	71	.0	64	.2
Northwestern Washington	57	.0	65	.2	63	.0
Southeastern Washington	63	.2	71	.0	71	.5

Temperatures in Pea Canning Districts

..... 1934

———— 1935

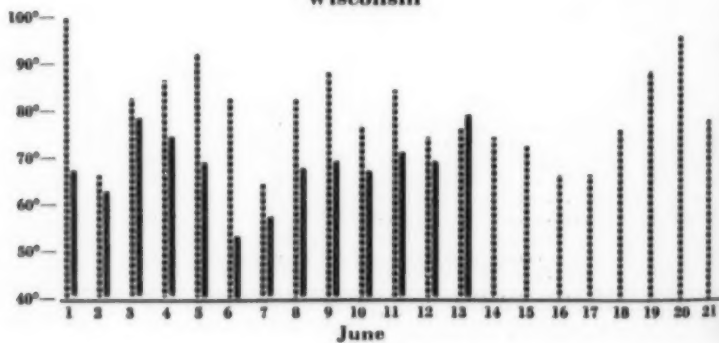
Maryland



New York



Wisconsin



Senate Approves Additional Agricultural Research Funds

The Senate on June 10th passed with amendments the bill (H. R. 7160) providing appropriations for research into basic laws and principles relating to agriculture and for the further development of co-operative agricultural extension work and the more complete endowment and support of land grant colleges. The general provisions of this bill were described in the INFORMATION LETTER for May 18th.

The amendments by the Senate relate to the distribution of an initial appropriation of \$980,000 for extension development and land grant college endowment respectively. In each case this initial sum is to be paid to the states and the territory of Hawaii in equal shares; the remainder of the sums appropriated are to be paid the states and Hawaii under the same conditions and limitations as under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The House on June 13th voted to send the bill to conference.

Navy Seeks Bids on Canned Foods

The Navy Department has given notice of proposed purchases of canned foods for delivery at various East and West Coast points. Applications to bid should give the schedule number, material, and the date of opening, and be mailed to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. The following list gives the items, the opening date, and the schedule number.

Figs, July 9	Schedule 5316
Pears, July 23	Schedule 5323
Peaches, July 23	Schedule 5325
Pineapple, July 23	Schedule 5326
Peas, July 30	Schedule 5328
Mincemeat, August 6	Schedule 5329
Catsup, August 20	Schedule 5331

Labeling Discussion at Home Economics Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago on June 24th to 28th, inclusive. Miss Atwater and Miss Black of the Home Economics Division of the National Canners Association will attend the meetings.

Members of the industry will be interested to know that Mr. Frank Gerber of the Fremont Canning Company and Mr. F. M. Shook, Secretary of the Tri-State Packers Association, will speak on the labeling of canned foods, on Monday, June 24th, at the meeting of the Institution Section. This meeting is called for two o'clock in the afternoon at the Palmer House.

Government Reports on Canning Crops

Following are excerpts from reports issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the condition and prospects of peas, toma-

toes, snap beans, corn, and cabbage for kraut, based upon data as of June 1st.

PEAS

Condition of the crop on June 1st was reported at 90.4 per cent of normal for that date. This is the second highest June 1 condition in fifteen years, being exceeded only in 1922 when the June 1 condition was reported at 93.1 per cent. The condition on June 1 last year was 60.7 per cent and the 10-year average (1924-33) for June 1st is 83.4 per cent.

The spring has been backward but all important pea-growing districts have had sufficient rainfall to make soil moisture conditions ideal for seed germination. In the North Atlantic States, plants are beginning to appear on the first planted acreages and are growing satisfactorily.

In the North Central States, the crop at present gives promise of very good yields. Excessive rains in May, in Wisconsin and the Upper Mississippi Valley States interfered with farming operations and delayed completion of planting of late varieties. A few early fields in Ohio are nearing the blossoming period.

Weather conditions in the South Atlantic States have been unusually favorable for the growing crop. Crop conditions in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia on June 1st averaged higher than in any other group of States.

Prospects in the Far Western States appear favorable. Soil moisture supplies are adequate for the present needs of the crop, and vines are making excellent growth.

State	10-year average June 1, 1924-1933	June 1, 1934	June 1, 1935
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Maine	a 85	95	95
New York	86	76	85
Pennsylvania	80	89	86
Ohio	78	44	97
Indiana	78	45	100
Illinois	90	32	95
Michigan	82	62	77
Wisconsin	82	55	91
Minnesota	86	40	93
Delaware	77	92	92
Maryland	81	95	97
Virginia	90	100
Montana	b 90	59	90
Colorado	87	94	90
Utah	88	74	92
Oregon	66	80
Washington	b 90	92	93
Other States c	80	64	84
U. S. average	83.4	60.7	90.4

a Five-year average. b Four-year average. c "Other States" include California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wyoming. This group included Oregon and Virginia prior to 1934.

TOMATOES

Because of cool temperatures, operators in the Atlantic Coast States have not hastened in setting plants in the fields, although soil moisture is generally adequate. Maryland and Virginia growers are handicapped through a scarcity of plants for transplanting to the fields due to plant-bed failures.

In the North Central States transplanting is in progress. Excessive rains in Indiana and Illinois interfered with usual preparation of fields for receiving plants and in Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee planting operations were being carried on intermittently with serious interference by heavy rains. Where rains and cool weather have prevailed, some damage from cut worms and insects is reported.

In the Far Western States, although the season is late, transplanting was in progress. Soil conditions have been relatively good in all districts except a limited area in the southeastern part of Washington.

SNAP BEANS

Improved weather conditions for planting in the North Atlantic States have followed a backward spring. Germination of early plantings has been slow on account of cool weather and, in some districts in New York State, growers postponed planting until June 1st for more favorable temperature conditions. Excessive rains and weather have been hindering progress in planting until the season is now 10 days to 2 weeks behind schedule. Soil moisture is adequate and gives assurance of good moisture conditions for seed germination.

In the South Atlantic States, growing conditions are less favorable than to the north, with a serious lack of moisture for the growing crop in South Carolina. Delaware and Maryland growers are less seriously affected although rains were needed at the beginning of June.

Some damage has resulted from excessive rains in the South Central States, which detracts from the favorable prospects earlier reported. Interference with planting is particularly serious in Arkansas and Missouri and some fields are showing damage from insects.

Planting in the Far Western group of States is progressing under satisfactory conditions. Soil and weather conditions are conducive to good seed germination.

SWEET CORN

In the North Atlantic States, with warmer weather, planting is now in progress. Additional rains were needed on June 1st. Poor germination in a few districts in Pennsylvania is attributed to an inadequate supply of soil moisture. In Delaware and Maryland, germination has been good and the growing crop is making satisfactory growth.

In the North Central States, the planting season has been protracted by frequent and excessive rains, and in many States of this group the growth of the crop is nearly two or three weeks behind schedule. Germination of acreage first planted has been slow and poor, especially in Iowa and Illinois, where it has been necessary to replant some fields.

CABBAGE FOR KRAUT

In the North Central States and in New York, soil moisture is generally adequate and transplanting into fields is in progress. Except where cold weather has prevailed, seedlings in seed beds look good.

Truck Crop Prospects

The following statements briefly review the current releases of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the acreage and production forecasts of certain commercial truck crops in specified groups of States for the 1935 season:

LIMA BEANS.—There are 50,000 bushels of lima beans expected in North Carolina, the earliest intermediate shipping State, or a crop 17 per cent smaller than

the 60,000 bushels produced last year. A preliminary estimate of acreage for the three later intermediate States (Md., N. J., and Va.) shows a decrease of 7 per cent below both the 1934 acreage and the 5-year (1929-33) average acreage—5,260 acres for this year compared with 5,650 acres in 1934 and the 5-year average of 5,640 acres.

SNAP BEANS.—The production of 1,299,000 bushels forecast for the second section of intermediate States (Del., Ill., Md., and N. J.) is only slightly smaller than the 1934 crop of 1,303,000 bushels, but it is 13 per cent larger than the average production of 1,151,000 bushels for the preceding five years. Yields are expected to average about 2 per cent higher than those of a year ago, the lower yield indicated for New Jersey being more than offset by the higher yields indicated for Delaware, Illinois, and Maryland. There is a reported decrease of 3 per cent below 1934 in the acreage—12,140 acres this year compared with 12,460 acres in 1934.

BEETS.—An 11 per cent smaller crop than in 1934 is indicated by the forecast of production for the intermediate States (N. J., N. Car., and Va.), or 727,000 bushels expected this year compared with 816,000 bushels in 1934. Both acreage and indicated yield per acre are below the acreage and yield of a year ago. Compared with the average production of 600,000 bushels for the years 1929-1933, however, there is an increase of 21 per cent in this year's expected production.

GREEN PEAS.—The acreage of 23,540 acres estimated for the first section of late shipping States (Colo., Ida., N. Y., Oreg., and Wash.) is 10 per cent greater than the 1934 acreage of 21,470, and 17 per cent greater than the average of 20,160 acres for the preceding five years, 1929-1933. With indicated yields averaging 5 per cent higher than those of a year ago, the production is expected to be 15 per cent larger than the 1934 production and 25 per cent larger than the 5-year (1929-1933) average production, or a forecast of 2,467,000 bushels expected this year as compared with 2,145,000 bushels harvested last year and a 5-year average of 1,969,000 bushels.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

CARLOT SHIPMENTS AS REPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity	Week ending June 8		Week ending June 1		Total for season through June 8	
	1934	1935	1935	1934	1935	
Vegetables:						
Beans, snap and lima.....	273	274	355	11,375	8,491	
Tomatoes	2,489	1,702	1,766	14,001	11,804	
Green peas	108	146	358	4,029	3,987	
Spinach			10			
All other vegetables:						
Domestic—						
Competing directly	3,440	3,856	3,011	112,475	98,945	
Competing indirectly	15	5	5	9,530	12,354	
Imports—						
Competing directly						
Competing indirectly	5	10	2	88	100	
Fruits:						
Citrus, domestic	3,230	3,185	3,319	96,241	110,405	
Imports	19	11	5	774	332	
Others, domestic	1,634	1,160	1,363	18,360	12,647	

Australian Canned Fruit Production and Exports

The latest estimate of production of canned fruits in Australia for the 1935 season, according to the American trade commissioner at Sydney, is as follows: Apricots, 550,000 dozen 30-ounce tins; peaches,

2,250,000 dozen; pears, 900,000 dozen; total, 3,700,000 dozen. The figures for apricots are definitely correct to a few thousand dozen, as processing has been completed. Peaches and pears were still being canned at the time the estimate was made, and the final return may differ a little from the quantities reported.

Exports to the United Kingdom are estimated as follows: Apricots, 220,000 dozen tins; peaches, 1,100,000 dozen; pears, 520,000 dozen; total, 1,840,000 dozen. These quantities are very close to those for which contracts have already been made. It is possible that seasonal conditions may prevent some of those contracts being fully supplied, but it is not considered that the final figures will change to any great extent. There will also be small shipments to Canada and New Zealand and odd lots exported to certain destinations in the east.

Department Store Sales in May

The Federal Reserve Board's index of department store sales, which makes allowance for differences in the number of business days, and for usual seasonal movements, including changes in the date of Easter, was 76 in May, on the basis of the 1923-25 average as 100, compared with 73 in April and 82 in March. Total dollar volume of sales in May was smaller than a year ago by 1 per cent. The aggregate for the first five months of this year was 2 per cent larger than for the corresponding period last year.

Pamphlet Issued on Fish Cookery

A 26-page pamphlet on "Practical Fish Cookery" has been published by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries as Fishery Circular No. 19. The authors state that it was prepared to "enable the busy home maker to buy fish and shellfish and cook them with a minimum of labor in variety with the material found in most domestic kitchens." A large number of recipes are furnished, almost entirely for the use of fresh fish. The pamphlet also contains a list of cook books giving recipes for cooking fish and shellfish.

Canned Fishery Products Pack in 1934

Output of canned fishery products and by-products in the United States and Alaska in 1934 was valued at \$102,343,587, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Of the total, canned products represented \$79,863,716, or nearly 40 per cent more than in 1933.

Fishery products were canned at 383 establishments in the United States and Alaska during 1934, as compared with 377 in 1933. The combined output of canned fishery products in 1934 amounted to 17,339,593 standard cases or 699,443,233 pounds.

The following tables, compiled from the Bureau of Fisheries' statistics, furnish comparative figures for 1933 and 1934:

Product	1933		1934	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Salmon				
United States	1,136,861	\$7,865,903	901,206	\$8,205,947
Alaska	5,225,604	28,376,014	7,481,830	37,611,950
Sardines				
Maine	880,908	2,397,348	1,142,730	3,315,190
California	1,539,446	3,805,168	1,970,047	5,481,391
Tuna and tunalike fishes....	1,443,133	6,934,485	1,966,943	10,009,542
Alewives	19,676	44,091	18,499	54,044
Alewife roe	28,673	112,246	15,351	75,581
Shad	1,148	3,837	8,233	24,458
Shad roe	1,108	24,823	2,118	58,857
Mackerel	748,492	1,867,465	1,275,419	3,244,944
Fish flakes	20,076	155,424	36,540	326,372
Fish cakes, balls, etc.....	65,100	444,236	77,595	609,889
Cat and dog food	213,811	588,090	301,508	823,440
Sturgeon caviar	2,596	333,530	3,126	396,824
Whitefish roe and caviar....	854	29,754	912	37,678
Salmon eggs (for bait)....	9,186	93,145	5,044	128,453
Miscellaneous fish, roe and caviar	11,802	84,059	20,884	148,118
Oysters	347,730	1,074,758	403,041	1,722,276
Shrimp	860,462	3,479,477	1,021,822	4,403,077
Clam products	414,806	1,690,313	1,633,055	2,713,228
Crabs	9,272	143,517	11,614	191,532
Turtle and terrapin products	2,607	42,008	3,204	58,232
Miscellaneous shellfish	3,279	42,973	38,872	222,693
Total	13,086,718	59,632,664	17,339,593	79,863,716

State	1933	1934
	Value	Value
Maine	\$2,930,390	\$4,251,142
Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	759,647	1,092,131
New York and New Jersey.....	727,513	1,856,082
Maryland	106,734	266,478
Virginia	90,095	39,264
North and South Carolina.....	363,176	466,792
Georgia	515,903	515,076
Florida	467,898	412,617
Alabama	329,911	1,683,976
Mississippi	974,293	
Louisiana	1,572,942	2,380,545
Texas and Wisconsin	317,486	465,989
Washington	5,801,293	6,026,339
Oregon	2,674,923	3,015,285
California	13,231,561	19,405,810
Alaska	28,759,899	37,986,190
Total	59,632,664	79,863,716

United States Standards for Barreled Sauerkraut

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued United States standards for grades of barreled or bulk sauerkraut effective May 27, 1935. Mimeographed copies of these standards may be obtained of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. These standards are substantially the same as the tentative United States standards for grades of canned sauerkraut issued February 8, 1933.

U. S. Standards for Grades of Canned Beets

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has announced official standards for canned beets under the Warehouse Act, which became effective May 21, 1935. These standards are based on the tentative standards for canned beets issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on October 23, 1933. Only slight changes have been made in the tentative standards just mentioned.

A minimum drained weight is provided for whole beets, quartered beets, and diced beets, also a slightly greater variation is permitted in the size of whole beets and sliced beets. Mimeographed copies of the official standards may be obtained from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Frozen and Preserved Fruits in Cold Storage

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of June 1st, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	June 1, 1935	June 1, 1934	Five-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	16,000	26,000	57,000
Boxes	561,000	809,000	1,059,000
Baskets	470,000	298,000	381,000
Pears:			
Boxes	8,000	17,000	26,000
Baskets	1,000	2,000	2,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds).....	44,010,000	53,512,000	55,343,000

Bean Inspectors Located at Three Points

Pea beans, red kidney beans and cranberry beans can be bought on the basis of Federal grades and inspection, licensed Federal inspectors having been located at Grand Rapids and Bad Axe, Michigan, and Rochester, New York, where beans of these types are more generally grown. The inspectors are under supervision of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and are available for inspection of beans at field headquarters and adjacent points. Shippers and jobbers in Michigan and New York can obtain and furnish, if desired, a Federal certificate of grade on all beans sold.

Culture of Currants and Gooseberries

"The Culture of Currants and Gooseberries and their Relation to White-Pine Blister Rust" is the subject of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1398, issued last December, superseding Farmers' Bulletin No. 1024. This is an illustrated publication of 42 pages furnishing cultural directions, data on insect pests and diseases, spray schedules, and discussion of varieties and ways of using the fruits, along with a summary of the more important state laws relating to blister rust.

Composition of Asparagus Shoots

Technical Bulletin No. 462, U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "Composition of the Developing Asparagus Shoot in Relation to Its Use as a Food Product and as Material for Canning," reports a study of the composition and the canning and cooking qualities of the different regions, from base to top, of developing asparagus shoots of various ages and heights, by a method which consisted in subdividing the shoots into a number of short segments which were separately subjected to chemical analyses and to pressure, cooking, and canning tests.

Oil Pollution Found Detrimental to Oysters on Gulf Coast

Experimental proof that oil well pollution is detrimental to oysters has been developed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff, in charge of the bureau's oyster investigations, and his associates, have completed a study of the effects of oil well wastes on oysters in Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays, Louisiana, where unusual mortality of planted oysters during the last two years has cost growers many thousands of dollars. The scientists have determined that some organic compound present in crude oil and salt water from the wells is detrimental to the oyster and its food, it was stated.

The brine from oil wells has been shown to affect the oyster directly only when it raises the salinity of the water over the beds beyond the limits of tolerance. However, this oil well brine retards the growth of the oyster's principal food when present in much lower concentrations.

The detailed report of this investigation has been sent to the Government Printing Office and will be available for distribution within a short time. A summary of the results of the study in mimeograph form is available for distribution by the Bureau of Fisheries at the present time.

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